



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

Section

MAY 25 2005

Kenneth J. Teter, P.E., Town Engineer
K.Teter Consulting
32 Clinton Street
Homer, New York 13077

Dear Mr. Teter:

We have reviewed the information submitted for the Town of Sennett's Water Infrastructure Improvements Program pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR Part 6, and have determined that the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements. The project, which involves replacing the existing inadequate water conveyance system that presently serves Sennett Water Districts #2 and #6, is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act Grant.

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen C. Callahan".

Kathleen C. Callahan
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: David Sikora, Town Supervisor
Andrew Fusco, Town Attorney

ENCLOSURE

Sennett Water Districts Infrastructure Improvement Project Town of Sennett, New York Special Appropriations Act Grant No. XP972899-01

Background

Sennett Water Districts #2 and #6 are located immediately to the east of the City of Auburn, New York, and receive water supplied by the City. The water main which services the area was originally constructed in the 1930's to provide water to the former Auburn Correctional Facility prison farm. The main is deteriorating and undersized, and supplied via an inadequate pressure tank and pumping system. As a result, it is subject to routine breaks and repairs, provides low water pressure to the residents of the area (approximately 400 households), and does not provide an adequate supply of water for the area's fire protection needs. To rectify this situation, the existing water supply infrastructure servicing the area needs to be modified.

Proposed Action

To resolve the area's identified water supply problems, the Town of Sennett proposes to install approximately 16,000 linear feet of 12-inch water supply lines and a new 350,000 gallon water storage tank to provide adequate water service to the service area.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the "Proposed Action," the "No Action" alternative was considered. Under "No Action," more than 400 households would continue to be inadequately served by an inadequate public water supply system. Low water pressure and frequent breakdowns would continue to occur, and the fire protection need of the community will remain unmet. "No Action" was rejected because it does not satisfy the community's water supply requirements.

Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or toward the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.505(c)(1), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species,

environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.